

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING JULY 24 AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Prepared especially for State Extension Directors

By the OPA

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OPA action to relieve the meat shortages in certain eastern seaboard cities featured this agency's efforts of paramount interest to the farmer this week.

MEATS

Price Administrator Leon Henderson urged all factors, both large and small, in the livestock and meat industry to cooperate in a program designed to supply all parts of the country with meats in their usual proportions of the available supply, rather than favoring cities with higher ceiling prices. This system of voluntary allocation of available civilian supply was urged with full realization that it might entail some temporary sacrifices.

OPA indicated that the meat picture might not take a material turn for the better for another 4 - 6 week period when the anticipated heavy fall run of hogs and cattle come to market.

Housewives were urged to "buy carefully, buy conservatively, and buy less if possible during the next 6 weeks." They also were told that they may not be able to secure their entire normal beef, veal, and pork selections at the butcher shops during this temporary period.

Livestock raisers were asked not to withhold their animals from market longer than needed to fatten them more than necessary (OPA-352).

RICE

Maximum prices on rice at the milling level may be rolled back approximately 10 percent from present ceilings in the near future to permit wholesalers, particularly in the Southeast, to continue to purchase from mills and yet maintain their present ceiling prices without loss (OPA-314).

FATS AND OILS

OPA took four steps to facilitate orderly and normal marketing of imported vegetable oils, tallows and greases, marine animal oils, and for adjustments in contracts with the United States, or any other agency thereof. Specific ceiling prices were fixed on 19 different imported vegetable oils; price differentials between various grades of tallow and greases were adjusted; then these newly adjusted prices in inedible tallows and greases were "rolled back" about 1 cent a pound to relieve the raw material squeeze on soap manufacturers, who previously had voluntarily cut their soap prices. "Dollars and cents" maximums also were set on six different marine animal oils and one processed marine animal oil. Sellers may make deliveries to Government agencies while adjustment applications are under consideration (OPA-303).

Core oil - a binding component in sand molds used for making castings - is excepted from provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA -333).

HIDES

A compulsory discount on tanners' purchases of "green" or partially "cured" hides or skins was announced under the established ceiling for these hides and skins. This was done to facilitate the War Production Board's hide allocation program and to insure their proper curing (OPA-324).

SARDINES

OPA rolled back the squeeze on distributors of Maine sardines by setting definite "dollars and cents" ceilings, reducing about 11 percent prices which canners may charge such wholesalers (OPA-336).

SUGAR

Revised Price Schedule No. 60 (Direct-Consumption Sugars) has been amended to conform with provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation as regards registration and licensing (T-594).

OPA announced a formula for determining the sugar base for an industrial user for the months his establishment was closed during 1941 because of strike, flood, fire, or similar reasons (OPA-319).

No change whatsoever is contemplated at the present time in the provisions of the sugar rationing regulations which apply to fruit packers (OPA-342).

KRAFT PAPER

Manufacturers' and distributors' prices for kraft wrapping papers and certain kraft bags are materially reduced from present ceilings to the levels existing October 1 to 15, 1941 (OPA-327). Distributors' mark-ups which existed prior to the inflationary period in the paper market during the latter half of 1941 are restored by the order.

PROFITEERING

OPA is launching a country-wide campaign to bring to an end flagrant profiteering in the sale of beer and soft drinks to members of the armed services in areas near camps and other military establishments (OPA-335).

MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING

Sellers of summer seasonal men's and boys' tailored clothing may not introduce new lines at prices higher than those established by the same seller under the terms of amendment 2 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 142 (Summer Seasonal Commodities) (OPA-181).

COTTON PRODUCTS

Requirement has been eliminated for monthly reports of sales and deliveries of combed grey goods for which ceilings are not set by the Fine Cotton Grey Goods Schedule No. 11 (OPA-286).

To expedite army procurement of several millions of huck towels, OPA set a \$1.73 per dozen ceiling price for these towels made to Federal Specification DDD-T-531 (with or without woven name or colored stripe stamped or unstamped), terms net, f.o.b. shipping point (OPA-T-16).

OPA corrected the method by which a person other than a manufacturer of woven decorative fabrics establishes his ceiling price under Maximum Price Regulation No. 39 (OPA-T-13).

Several limited groups of fabrics have been transferred from finished textile piece goods regulation to other price regulations (OPA-T-18). This permits converters to use the same ceiling prices for different colors of the same fabric pattern and extends the present formula for price adjustments when credit terms are used.

WOOL

OPA announced methods by which ceiling prices may be determined for actual grease wool delivered in the grease wool futures market conducted by the Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange, Inc. (OPA-282).

SOUPS

Soup canners, wholesalers, and retailers are provided with a new pricing method by which they shall calculate their ceiling levels on the "new formula" condensed soups (OPA-313).

RAYON THREAD

OPA authorized the Belding Heminway Co., of New York City, to pass on to garment manufacturers and other industrial users of rayon stitching and sewing threads a 45 percent saving as compared with the cost of silk threads (T-595).

PRICES

OPA issued a chart depicting the effect of price control effects in limiting advances in various groups of commodities during the 33 months from August 1939 to April 1942. Metals and metal products, of which 92 percent were under control on April 18, 1942, increased only 11 percent from August 1939. On the other hand, farm products, only 3 percent of which were under control on April 18, 1942, increased 71 percent during that period (OPA-318).

ADJUSTMENTS

Certified Grocers of California, Ltd, a cooperative, was granted an increase of 1 cent per pound in their present selling price of Parkay Oleo Margerine (OPA-T-17).

Hoffman Beverage Co. was granted a petition allowing that concern to its levels of April 8, 1942, at which time they raised prices for their beer, ale, and "half and half" 4 cents per case of 24 twelve-ounce bottles, 10 cents per case of 12 quart bottles, and 25 cents per half barrel of 15½ gallons (OPA-331).

RENTS

Paul Porter, OPA Deputy Rent Administrator, stated 369 defense rental areas had been designated. Beginning August 1, the maximum rent regulations will have been made effective in 94 of these areas (OPA-347).

Price Administrator Leon Henderson promised Congress and the country that rent control provisions of the Emergency Price Control Act will be enforced without reference to selfish pressures (OPA-300).

BICYCLES

OPA cut the already allotted July bicycle rationing quota to 57,500 (OPA-302). Originally the OPA quota for release between July 9 (the beginning of rationing) and August was to be 230,000.

GASOLINE

Through coupon rationing in the eastern seaboard area, OPA tightens its control over the limited gasoline supply, thus protecting the most essential users (OPA-320).

Value of coupons in all types of new gasoline rationing books, effective July 22, were officially announced. These are "A," "B," and "C" books - 4 gallons each. "D" book for motorcycles - 1½ gallons each. "E" and "R" books for nonhighway equipment - 1 gallon each, and "S-1" and "S-2" coupons for service rations for trucks, busses, taxicabs, etc. - 5 gallons each (OPA-338).

Any attempt to violate the new gasoline rationing system will constitute an assault on a vital war measure and will be dealt with accordingly, Price Administrator Leon Henderson declared (OPA-344).

Gasoline may be sold on a "coupon credit" basis by service stations in advance of coupon receipts by the purchaser (OPA-355).

Service rations may be issued for unregistered trucks lawfully operated under dealer or other interchangeable license plates (OPA-351).

OPA announced provisions for issuing a temporary service ration to trucks licensed by the Interstate Commerce Commission if their regular gasoline rations cannot be issued on time (OPA-343).

FRUIT CAKE

Ceiling on fruit cake has been set by means of a special pricing formula because bakers making such cake normally are active only during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons and thus did not bake the product during March (OPA-323).

TIRES

Only trucks engaged in services essential to the war effort or public health and safety will be entitled to recapped or new tires after July 28 (OPA-304).

Deputy Administrator Paul M. O'Leary suspended recapping and retreading operations of the Durham Tire Exchange, Durham, N. C., for 60 days and ordered return of more than a ton of camelback acquired illegally (OPA-312). This was the first action against a tire-treading establishment for violation of OPA rationing regulations.

Wholesalers and retailers of new rubber tires and tubes are licensed under the General Maximum Price Regulation and may have their licenses to do business revoked for violation of price schedules (OPA-326).

Larger tire and tube quotas for August than for July have been allotted to provide for increasing applications by essential vehicle operators for rationing certificates (OPA-348).

GENERAL MAXIMUM PRICE REGULATION

All contract carriers by truck and water must adjust their rates on August 1 in order not to exceed the highest levels permitted by the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-316).

Uniform licensing and registration provisions are being incorporated in 19 price schedules and regulations despite the fact that the General Maximum Price Regulation recently extended its licensing and registration sections to all other OPA price regulations under which sales are made at retail or wholesale (OPA-294). These individual amendments are being applied as a cross-reference so that persons subject to the regulation may be fully informed of the requirements.

Pay-roll machines sold to the armed forces and the Federal Government by the International Payroll Machine Co., Reading, Pa., are temporarily exempted from the provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-297).

American consumers today were guaranteed by Price Administrator Henderson that the \$500,000,000 they will spend this year on soap will buy at least as much as it does at present and that the quality will not be debased (OPA-298).

Relief has been granted by an amendment to the General Maximum Price Regulation to storekeepers, wholesalers, and manufacturers who had abnormally low prices throughout March as a result of special merchandising sales or temporary price reductions (OPA-290).

Unpeeled logs sold for mine timbers without any processing whatever are considered logs within the terms of the General Maximum Price Regulation and therefore, are exempted from its provisions (OPA-T-15).

Antimony residue, slags, skimmings, and drosses have been excepted from the provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-305).

One of two overlapping provisions in Supplementary Regulations of the General Maximum Price Regulation is removed (OPA-306). Machines and parts and machine works are the items exempted from the General Maximum Price Regulation provisions in Supplementary Regulation No. 1 and 2.

OPA soon will set much lower prices for pulpwood than the current market rates in order to protect the price ceilings on the products produced from it - such as wood pulp and newsprint (OPA-330).

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